

Department of Community Services
NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

M. R. Morris

MEMORANDUM

July 30, 1952

TO: Mr. Nelson C. Jackson, Director
Community Services

FROM: Ray E. Morris, Field Representative

SUBJ: Follow-up Visit in Trenton, New Jersey
(Dates of Visit: 7/24/52 through 7/25/52)

Purpose of Visit

This visit was made to advance the development of a training project in Trenton, and to further exploratory work begun in Bucks County, Pa. A separate report is made for the work in Bucks County. This report is on Trenton only, on next steps in the city-wide Training Project.

Background Information

The work in Trenton and in Bucks County are related. Both are integral parts of an over-all NUL approach to problems of employment and housing facing Negroes in the Trenton-Bucks County-Philadelphia area. However, on the scene, efforts are kept distinct because of local resentment of projects tying together the leadership of persons from both sides of the river. Previous developments of our work in Trenton are reported in memoranda dated 1/23/52, 3/7/52 and 6/24/52, respectively.

Problems Presented

This visit was concerned with the training project, about which the following things needed handling:

1. Clarification of the respective roles of the National Urban League, the Trenton Council of Social Agencies, and of the Trenton Council on Human Relations, regarding the training project.
2. Determination and interpretation of the roles that should be pursued by individual local residents, particularly by Negro leaders who have been voicing anxiety about T.C.S.A.'s carrying out of the NUL training project.
3. Activation of T.C.S.A.'s actual work on the project which the T.C.S.A. board officially stated falls within their function and about which they stated their willingness to operate.

Action Taken

1. A conference was held (7/15/52) with Mr. Auerbach, Executive Director, Trenton Council of Social Agencies, in order to clarify the responsibility of the T.C.S.A. and the roles of the T.C.S.A. and the NUL. This clarification was accomplished after a thorough weighing of all

relevant factors. At my suggestion we recorded the decisions in a letter addressed to me and signed by Mr. Amerbach. A copy of that letter was sent to the T.C.N.R. also.

2. A conference (7/16/52) with Mrs. Merrill, Executive Secretary, Trenton Council on Human Relations, was used to orient her regarding the role her agency should pursue. We emphasized the necessity of T.C.N.R. making a success of the project, since the NUL has delineated its need and set it up amid growing serious local awareness of its importance.
3. A conference was held (7/24/52) with Mr. Crawford Jameson, President, Trenton Council on Human Relations, Mr. Joseph Fishberg, Chairman Publicity Committee, T.C.N.R., Mrs. Merrill, and the NUL Field Representative. Messrs. Jameson and Fishberg were given a first-hand explanation of the project, its implications, the respective roles of the interested agencies, etc. It was decided that the T.C.N.R. would invite a representative group of persons (principally, persons whose interest has been secured by the NUL field person), to convene in the second week of August. The League worker will attend that meeting in order to interpret the project, etc.
4. Several conversations were developed with Messrs. Clifford Moore (see "List of Persons Seen" for titles), Leonard Williams, Charles Williams, James Granger and Orichen Holmes. In each case the idea of T.C.N.R. taking on the NUL-planned project had to be properly interpreted. For instance, on 7/7/52 Mrs. Moore had written a strong letter of protest to the Council of Social Agencies stating "...I am of the opinion that the job cannot and will not be performed by the Trenton Council on Human Relations."

An understanding was accomplished with each of the persons mentioned to the effect that T.C.N.R. will be allowed sufficient time to get the project rolling. Around September 30, 1952, Mrs. Moore, in cooperation with this appropriate person will decide whether developments are satisfactory. As interested local citizens and/or participants, they will make any recommendations they think necessary at that time.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Most persons with whom we have close contact feel that the Trenton Council on Human Relations will "foul up" the NUL conceived and organized training project. Yet, NUL's relationship to the DWW will be strengthened by following strictly the decision of the Trenton Council of Social Agencies' board--that T.C.N.R. execute the project. Furthermore, this is in keeping with NUL-UNCC functions in such a community as Trenton.

It now seems rather well understood that this is the opportunity for T.C.N.R. to perform or to establish its inability to perform satisfactorily, regarding the specific important problem that the training project seeks to relieve.

It is recommended that the NEH follow the role indicated in Mr. Auerbach's letter (a copy of which is attached), and that the NEH Field Representative be enabled to operate in and out of Trenton regularly as necessary, for the best discharge of our role. It is recommended, further, that any assignments to other work or geographical areas be planned so as to permit regular contact with Trenton developments.

However, since what is meant in Mr. Auerbach's letter, about NEH supervision of the project, might be misconstrued, it is recommended that an official NEH statement be sent to T.C.N.R. and T.C.S.A. further defining our role. It seems that we should not allow an assumption that we are responsible for the success or failure of the project, since we are not executing it.

List of Persons Contacted:

1. Mr. Peter Auerbach, Executive Secretary, Trenton Council of Social Agencies
2. Mr. Nick Calisti, Soc. Agent, N.A.R., and Labor Representative, UMW
3. Mrs. James E. Granger, member Trenton NAACP board--wife of prominent Negro physician
4. Miss Mildred Greene, civic worker
5. Mrs. Gretchen Holmes, Trenton school teacher
6. Mr. William H. Jackson, Executive Secretary, Carver Branch YWCA.
7. Mrs. J. C. Merrill, Executive Secretary, Trenton Council on Human Relations
8. Mr. Clifford E. Moore, Chairman, NEH Advisory Committee to the Delaware Valley United Fund Budget Committee
9. Mrs. Caroline Moore, ardent civic worker--wife of Clifford E. Moore
10. Mr. Charles Williams, President, Trenton Chapter, NAACP, and of Carver Center
11. Mr. Leonard J. Williams, attorney and civic worker
12. Mrs. Vera Williams, a club worker prominent in the community.

cc: Mr. Granger-Mr. Ross
 Mr. Thomas
 Mr. Farris
 Mr. Johnson
 Miss Tanneyhill-Mr. Finley-Mr. Pope
 Mr. Lanner-Mr. Mason